

**ILLIMITY FINANCES THE GROWTH OF ANIMALIA WITH A LOAN OF 8.5 MILLION EURO.
THE GROUP OPERATING IN THE VETERINARY SECTOR
AIMS TO GROW THROUGH NEW ACQUISITIONS**

Milan, 7 June 2022 – illimity Bank S.p.A. (“illimity” or the “Bank”) has disbursed 8.5 million euro to Brisa S.r.l., the parent company of the Animalia Group (“Animalia” or the “Group”), which operates in the veterinary sector by providing a complete range of services for the care and daily welfare of household pets.

The financing, consisting of a 6-year term loan having a 70% guarantee provided by the EIF (European Investment Fund), is intended to support Animalia’s organic and external growth strategy.

Formed in 2019 with the opening of its first Veterinary Clinic in Lissone, in just three years Animalia has grown rapidly, also through a series of acquisitions, leading to the creation of 20 facilities in 9 different regions in Northern and Central Italy, a number the Group is aiming to take to over 25 by the end of this year.

The Group’s project involves the acquisition and management of clinics of excellence for pets, by integrating realities with different specialisations in one single Group. The aim is to provide top quality care and a complete range of services for pets by fostering the collaboration of professionals and specialists by way of continuous research, investment and training.

Enrico Fagioli, Head of illimity’s Growth Credit Division, stated: *“Animalia has been able to rapidly create significant synergies by combining veterinary expertise and managerial skills. Backed by this business model, in just two years it has grasped the potential arising from the consolidation process currently taking place in the Italian veterinary sector which is constantly expanding and is now worth around 1.5 billion euro. We are therefore happy to work alongside Animalia on its external growth path, which will drive the Group’s further rapid expansion and enable it to express its potential to the full”*.

Antonino Santalucia, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Animalia, commented: *“illimity is a very important partner for Animalia as it has believed in our project since the beginning and has accompanied the company step by step on its growth path with its extensive flexibility and detailed understanding of our needs”*. *“We are very satisfied with the work carried out so far and with the partnership relationship that has been established to support the Group’s future growth”*, continued **Giorgio Romani**, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Animalia.

For further information:

Strategy, Sustainability & Investor Relations illimity

Silvia Benzi: +39.349.7846537 - +44.7741.464948 – silvia.benzi@illimity.com

Press & Communication illimity

Vittoria La Porta, Francesca d'Amico
+39.340.1989762 press@illimity.com

Sara Balzarotti, *Ad Hoc Communication Advisors*
+39.335.1415584 sara.balzarotti@ahca.it

illimity Bank S.p.A.

illimity is the high-tech banking group founded and headed by Corrado Passera that was created with the aim of responding to specific market needs by way of an innovative and specialist business model. More specifically, illimity extends financing to high-potential SMEs, purchases distressed corporate loans and services these through its platform neprix, and provides digital direct banking services through illimitybank.com. illimity SGR, which sets up and manages alternative investment funds, the first of which dedicated to UTP loans, is also a member of the Group. The story of the illimity Group began in January 2018 with the launch of the special purpose acquisition company SPAXS S.p.A., which ended with a record 600 million euro being raised on the market. SPAXS subsequently acquired Banca Interprovinciale S.p.A., with the resulting merger between the two giving rise to "illimity Bank S.p.A." which has been listed on the Italian Stock Exchange since 5 March 2019 (ticker "ILTY"), first on the MTA exchange and since September 2020 on the Star segment (now Euronext Star Milan). The banking group, headquartered in Milan, can already count on over 760 employees and ended the first quarter of 2022 with assets of around 4.9 billion euro.

Animalia Group

Animalia was founded in 2019 by Antonino Santalucia, Giorgio Romani and Giulio Renoldi with the aim of creating a leader in the management of veterinary clinics by consolidating facilities of excellence in one single group. The project is based on the conviction that by combining veterinary knowledge and managerial know-how it is possible to enhance the value of every skill to the utmost, support the growth projects of every clinic and provide a more complete, professional and efficient service to each patient and client. Since 2020 the Animalia Group has expanded throughout north and central Italy to arrive at a current total of 20 veterinary facilities in 9 different regions with more than 350 co-workers.